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JAMAICA, NEW YORK LONG ISLAND PRESS

E = 321,828S = 377,402

FEB 2 5 1967

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Humphrey's Slip Infuriates LBJ

FROM THE PRESS
WASHINGTON BUREAU

Vice President Hubert Humphrey, who tries to toe the White House line but doesn't always succeed, slipped up this week when he declared he was "not at all happy" about CIA subsidies of private organizations. The President, it is understood, was furious at Humphrey's comment. That's why LBJ put the White House stamp of approval on a statement by Under Secretary of State. Nicholas Katzenbach which praised the CIA activities.

An unprecedented political study of American cities has been started by the Department of Housing and Urban Development. When it is completed, probably within a year, the federal government will have a dossier on the political strengths and weaknesses of about 50 American cities.

The study is to lay the groundwork for HUD's model cities program — a multi-million-dollar effort to renew city cores with infusion of federal funds. Some 700 cities have applied for the federal largesse and the number must be narrowed to 50, probably by the middle of 1968.

HUD staffers are taking the political temperatures of the 50 most promising cities. If a city shows a weak political structure with inability to coordinate with civil rights and renewal groups it will be recommended that the city be dropped from consideration as a model city.

But what HUD staffers are worrying about is that local politicians may ignore the study, pull federal strings, and get the model cities dough anyway.

Defense Secretary Robert S. McNamara is a very busy man. He runs the government's biggest department and he has a war on his hands. He makes about one public speech a year, Still, he found the time to travel last Friday to tiny Millsaps College in Jackson, Miss., to make a talk.

Sen. John Stennis, D-Miss., is a very powerful man. He is chairman of the Senate Preparedness Investigations. Subcommittee and is a frequent critic of McNamara's policies.

If there were any doubt that McNamara is uncharacteristically beginning to pay more court to the men in Congress who count on Pentagon matters, McNamara dispelled it himself in his speech at Millsaps. He said:

"I am here in Mississippi tonight i and very pleased to be so — not only because of the warmth of your hospitality, but, in particular, because of the profound respect I bear the man who invited me: Sen. John Stennis."

McNamara went on to praise Stennis in the most extravagant terms and added, "I feel particularly objective about saying this of him, for there are some technical military matters on which he and I have disagreed."

New Mexico's legislature may move the state into the presidential primary limelight. There is a bill to hold the primary in March, shortly after New Hampshire's, and list all the presidential candidates on the ballot. If the change is approved, New Mexico could grab all the early political play. Candidates would prefer the sunshine to sloshing around in New Hampshire's snow.

Even though he lived in Idaho as a boy, Michigan Gov. George Romncy may have a tough time landing that state's eight delegate votes at the Republican national convention, if he seeks the presidential nomination. John Birchers are strong there, including some Mormons. What is more, there is talk of backing Sen. Len Jordan as a favorite-son candidate.

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